

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING - A growing understanding of a very basic need

On November 28-30 the NCC Youth Commission held a Consultation on Christian Youth Leadership Training at the Itsukaichi Youth Training Center. The participants were from many different groups. From the United Church of Christ came 6, the Evangelical Lutheran Church 4, the Japan Baptist Convention 2, YWCA 2, YMCA 1, Christian Endeavor 2, the NCC 5, and the World Council of Churches 1. The Rev. Philip Potter, Secretary for the Youth Department of the WCC, was visiting Japan and took an active and helpful role in the Consultation.

Mr. Potter spoke first about the Christian Youth Movement in Europe and then spoke about the need for Christian Youth Leadership Training. This was followed by a report on the outcome of the Consultation on Leadership Training held at Lake Forest College, Ill. last year under the sponsorship of the World Christian Youth Commission. This led to a re-evaluation of what leadership training materials were available in Japanese.

Partly as the result of work done during the past two years and partly as the result of thinking done at this conference, it became evident that youth workers in various denominations and groups are coming to see the need for Leadership Training as distinct from the general task of Christian evangelism and education of Youth. The group present strongly urged that the NCC Youth Commission try to organize a Leadership Training conference this coming year.







Mr. Potter said that he was impressed by the predominantly young congregations in the Japanese Church, where it is usual to have at least three fourths of the congregation younger than 25. He observed that it was unfortunate that this was such a transient group. In view of this predominance of youth, he suggested that the youth work of the churches should not be merely a subdivision or even an appendage of the total church program, but rather should be the central task of the Church. Also, in view of this, Leadership Training is not merely for the benefit of the youth of the church alone but is essential to the future of the church.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE - detailed plans prepare for World Conf.

The theme for the 14th World Convention of the World Council of Christian Education and the Sunday School Association in the summer of 1958 will be "Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life". Using these three phrases as the theme for each of the next three years, the NCC Church School Department has outlined a detailed plan for preparing for this World Convention.

In order to help raise the 30 million yen needed from Japan in order to be the host for this conference, a supporting agency is being established. The two outstanding leader of this agency are Mr. Tolutaro Kitamura, the former finance minister of the Japanese government and leader in the former Progressive Party; Toyohiko Iigawa, the world famous Christian writer and social worker. In order to form this agency, a meeting of 25 noted businessmen and statesmen was held on December 9th at the exclusive Kogyo Club. Among those who attended the meeting were Mr. Togasaki, the distinguished editor of the Nippon Times; Mr. Kobayashi, the noted layman who is the president of the Lion Toothpasts company; and Mr. Sugiyama, Vice-Chairman of the House of Representative.

Some of the details of the plans for the next three years appear below:

1956 Theme: Christ the Way

Jan.-March	Physical preparations of the World Convention Campaign office in the Christian Center.
April	Starting the publicity campaign
May	Nationwide Sunday School Convention in Hiroshima
June	Start campaign to gather the necessary 30 million yen
Sept.	Christian Education Week. Nationwide SS Superintendant Conference. S.S. Rally in each prefecture.
December	Campaign to get special Christmas offerings to be Given toward the holding of the World Convention.







57 Theme: Christ the Truth

Jan. Evaluate the financial campaign  
 Feb. Issue invitations to the Convention to 52 member nations  
 March-April Sponsor special prayer meetings for delegates in each of the 52 nations, praying for some one country each night  
 May Nationwide Convention in Kanazawa  
 June & July Opening and getting underway the Central Office for the World Convention  
 September Nominate the 2,000 delegates from Japan to the Convention  
 November Drawing together the final results of the Statistical report of Sunday Schools in Japan. Final bringing into shape of the new Unified Curriculum.  
 December Sponsor drive to get special Christmas offerings given to subsidize the coming of Asian Delegates to this Convention.

58 Theme: Christ the Life

Jan-March Compile the list of delegates from all over the world  
 Announce the program for post-convention local rallies in the seven jurisdictions of Japan. World-delegates will attend these rallies to help get the flavour of the World Convention to the "rice roots" of Japan.  
 April Final check-up on housing of overseas delegates and make a list of recommended restaurants in Tokyo.  
 May Nationwide Sunday School Convention in Tokyo.  
 June Final check-up on all preparations  
 July The World Convention, theme: "Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life". June 10th, Information Bureaus set up in all major stations and airports in this area for the convenience of delegates.  
 July 20th: Institution for World Education Study Conference with 150 delegates in Kobe College. At the same time an Audio Visual Asian Conference and a World Christian Youth Conference with 100 delegates in each meeting at Seiwa and Kansei Gakuin (all in the same vicinity).  
 August (early) The Convention of the World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association with a total of 4,500 delegates.  
 Mid August to September Delegates go to the 7 Jurisdictional rallies.  
 September (end) World Convention Office Closes.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME - CWS appeals for aid to miners

As a special Christmas project the Japan office of Church World Service is sponsoring a drive to collect gifts of money for scholarships and for free lunches for school children and for clothes, food,







and medicine from Christian schools, churches and social work institutions for the many needy families in coal mining communities.

The reason that there is such suffering in coal mining communities in this country is that capacity for coal production has been developed beyond consumption needs. Consequently there is widespread unemployment among miners. Japan is capable of producing 49 million tons of coal a year but only 42 million at the most are needed. As a consequence the number of miners needed has gradually decreased until there is great hardship in the northern part of Kyushu and the Tohoku area.

As an example let us look at the Aoki mine which is just outside of Iizuka city in Kyushu. In this community there are 480 families but only 200 are working. Of those who are unemployed, 30 families are temporarily getting relief support from the government and 50 have temporary unemployment insurance. The rest are destitute. Even those families that are able to work get credit tickets (for use in Company stores) equalling ¥150 for a day's labor. The generally accepted minimum standard for even day labor in most of Japan is ¥400. This gives an idea of the degree of destitution of the workers in the whole industry.

In the Iizuka area there are 1,500 children who are unable to bring any kind of lunch to school because of poverty in their homes. It is especially to help these children that the Japan Office of CWS is sponsoring the drive. The Japan Association of University Women are cooperating in this program and have donated funds to send 30,000 lbs. each of surplus butter and powdered milk. They are also sending 1,000 lbs of Multi Purpose Food (MPF) and 40 bales of children's suits. 100,000 vitamin pills are also being sent.

Another object of help during this Christmas season will be the families that live on barges in the harbor area of Tokyo and Yokohama. These people have no home other than their constantly moving barges and are often destitute.

#### BAPTIST VISITING EVANGELIST - musical and preaching talent combined

Rev. Yu Kwan Chang, pastor of the Hongkong Baptist Church was invited to Japan as a travelling evangelist of the Japan Baptist Convention from October 29 - December 6th. During that time he held evangelistic services in twenty churches in the Tokyo area and in western Japan.

Mr. Chang is not only a powerful preacher, he is an accomplished artist on the musical saw. Many were led to make decisions for Christ through his ministry.







YUASA IS NEW CHAIRMAN - change of leadership in CEA

Recently Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, the President of the International Christian University, was elected as the new Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Christian Education Association. The CEA is the Association to which most of the Protestant Christian Universities, Colleges, lower schools and kindergartens belong. It is distinct from the Japan Council of Christian Education (JCCE) which works in the field of Christian Education in the local churches and Sunday Schools.

Dr. Yuasa succeeded Dr. Junzo Sakaki who until recently was the President of Rikkyo (St. Paul's University).

There has also been a change in the General Secretary of the CEA. Mr. Tsuraki Yano has recently resigned from this position due to poor health. He was the General Secretary for seven years. Before this, he was the President of Meiji Gakuin University. To replace him, Dr. Yoshimune Abe has been appointed as an Advisor of the Association and as Acting General Secretary. Dr. Abe was formerly a Bishop in the Japan Methodist Church and later the President of Aoyama College.

RECORD SALE OF BIBLES - half a million increase

The Japan Bible Society announces that during the past year there has been an increase of more than half a million in total sales of Bibles, Testaments and Scripture portions. This means that this year's sales were about 140% of last year's sales. This was in spite of the fact that the complete Colloquial Bible was not published until last April.

The total sale of complete Bibles last year was 41,008. But in only seven months this year since the publication of the complete Colloquial Bible, 89,016 copies have been sold. The figures for other parts of the Bible sold follow:

	(Last year)	(This year)
New Testaments	415,909	473,042
Bible portions	860,970	1,307,221
Braille New Testaments	4,503	3,034
Grand total of all scriptures	1,322,990	1,872,313

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NOTICE:

Due to Christmas and Year-end holidays there will be no January 1, 1956 issue of J.C.A.N.



*[Faint, illegible text and markings covering the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]*